

Maine Farmer.

August, November 29, 1873.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

\$3.00 in advance, or \$2.50 if not paid within

Three Months after the date of publication.

All payments made by subscribers will be credited on the yellow slips attached to their papers. The printed date in connection with the subscriber's name will show the time to which he has paid, and will entitle him, in all cases, to a valid receipt for money sent by him.

A subscriber desiring to change the post office address of his paper must communicate with the name of the office to which it has been previously sent, and in all cases a valid receipt for money sent by him.

Collectors' Notice.

Mr. V. DARRING will visit Piscataquis County in November.

Mr. C. A. T. will call on the counties of Androscoggin and Oxford during the ensuing month.

Our Agent, Mr. S. N. TARR, will call upon subscribers in Washington county, during the month of October and November.

An Appeal to our Patrons.

The publishers of the Maine Farmer regret to be obliged by the unusual stringency of the times, to make an appeal to their patrons. Many of our subscribers are arrears for the year, the aggregate indebtedness making a very large amount, which we sorely need at the present time to defray the heavy current expenses of publication.

Our friends, considering the emergency by promptly settling their accounts, will be greatly obliged to do so.

As an inducement to an immediate compliance with this request, we renew the liberal offer made to our subscribers last year, which we trust all concerned will take advantage of, viz:

All persons in arrears who will send us the amount now due, at the rate of \$2 per year and two dollars in addition, shall receive credit for all past indebtedness, and for a year's subscription in advance. THIS OFFER TO STAND OPEN UNTIL THE 15th OF JANUARY, 1874.

All payments made at this office, or by mail, or to our authorized agents previous to that date, will be credited in accordance with the terms above stated.

The Virginian Affair.

Although the excitement respecting the capture of the Virginian and the heavy execution of her crew and passengers is unabated, a sufficient length of time has elapsed since those bloody transactions took place, to enable us to obtain a tolerably accurate account of them, and to comprehend in a fair degree, the issues between the two governments more recently connected, which are likely to grow out of them.

With regard to the executions, there can be but one opinion among civilized people. It must stand recorded as one of the most bloodthirsty and inexcusable crimes of the age.

Even if Gen. Ryan and his associates had, by their lawless acts, forfeited their lives to the Spanish Government, the execution of them, without any trial, was a heinous crime, and the manner of their death, are enough to brand the whole affair with eternal infamy.

But the question which more directly concerns us at the present time is the duty of the United States Government in the premises.

Unfurnished by the two governments upon such a subject, we are left to our own conclusions, which would precipitate the country into a foreign war without regard to the cause, it is the duty of the Government to enter upon an investigation into the whole transaction, with great fairness, yet calmly and dispassionately, allowing neither anger nor recrimination to enter into the discussion, and when a conclusion is arrived at, to report it to the people, upon such satisfaction as may comport with the principles of international law applicable to such cases.

And if the case shall be found to present novel features for which there are no precedents, such points should be settled in accordance with the principles of enlightened progress and civilization. War should certainly be resorted to only after every other expedient has failed.

The fact of the capture of the vessel and the execution of upwards of fifty of the passengers and crew is now well known. It is also established beyond a reasonable doubt that the Virginian when captured was not in British waters, but was on the high seas, some eighteen miles from any coast, upon the broad ocean.

The status of the Virginian at the time of her seizure does not seem to be so well settled. On the one hand it is claimed that she had been duly registered, had proper clearance papers from her last port and was sailing under the protection of the American flag.

These facts established, would furnish prima facie evidence that she was an American ship and entitled to protection as such, until she should commit some unlawful act.

On the other hand it is claimed that she was not an American ship with a legal register, for that she had a legal register it was forfeited by a sale to other parties; that she was frequently seized during the past two years, under the flag of other countries, and that she was engaged in an illegal expedition at the time of her capture. It will be seen that the most of these issues are questions of fact which can probably be determined without much delay or any great amount of difficulty.

Of the real character of the Virginian there can be no question. She was a blockade runner, and at the time of her capture was engaged in carrying contraband of war to the insurgents in Cuba. A large portion of her passengers were refugees from Cuba who were returning to that island to swell the army of the rebels or patriots as they are variously designated. Of course, she was a blockade runner, and will be known in the future, will depend entirely upon the success or failure of their cause. Successful rebellions are revolutions and those engaged in them are patriots.

But in the face of these well known facts, if she had a regular clearance from her last port, is duly registered and was sailing under the protection of the American flag, she could not be considered an unlawful act, she could not be molested, and if it is proved to have been her status at the time of her capture, the act was an insult to this nation for which ample reparation must be demanded and insisted upon.

The present Government of Spain is friendly to us and will doubtless be willing to make any reparation which justice may demand, at least, so far as it is in her power to do so. But Spain at the present time is unfortunately situated. A fierce and cruel civil war is raging, laying waste her fair fields and paralyzing all her industries, giving full employment to all her levies and absorbing all her national resources. In Cuba the republic of Spain has scarcely any adherents. One party is struggling and fighting for independence and the other is composed of royalists who are determined to perpetuate the institution of human slavery. This situation, it is very doubtful if Spain can enforce obedience to her laws in Cuba, so far as to afford protection to her ships, or violence to persons of any nationality. With this fact established, it certainly becomes the duty of the Government of the United States to keep a sufficient naval force in Cuban waters to protect our citizens and vindicate our national honor.

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A war between the United States and Spain at the present time would be a great misfortune to both countries. We have not yet received from the effects of our long civil war, our finances are low and our arms burdened. A war must necessarily increase our national indebtedness and would afford us no additional facilities for paying it. But war or no war, we must maintain our national honor and vindicate the rights of our citizens, however widely they may be scattered.

The action of the Government in putting our navy upon a war footing will be sustained by the country. Whether the present difficulties shall result in war or not, so long as civil strife is in Cuba and in Spain, an efficient naval force should be kept on the water.

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Of the real character of the Virginian there can be no question. She was a blockade runner, and at the time of her capture was engaged in carrying contraband of war to the insurgents in Cuba. A large portion of her passengers were refugees from Cuba who were returning to that island to swell the army of the rebels or patriots as they are variously designated. Of course, she was a blockade runner, and will be known in the future, will depend entirely upon the success or failure of their cause. Successful rebellions are revolutions and those engaged in them are patriots.

Brief Editorials.

The dinner of premium offering was reached in a protracted meeting over in New Hampshire the other evening, when an enthusiastic speaker proposed to give a piece of money to one who would rise for prayer. Such a "getting up" has rarely been witnessed in a similar meeting, and it is hoped that the speaker was better able to fulfill his engagement than some other parties have who have offered such premiums.

We do not vouch for the authenticity of this story, but we simply repeat it as it was told to us. It is, at least, a good story and will illustrate the tendencies of the times.

A chicken neatly dressed weighing nearly eight pounds, and a fine assortment of apples were the contents of a box which was recently received from our esteemed friend, Mr. Stephen Hubbard of West Waterville. The chicken was a full blooded Buff Orpington, of which Mr. Hubbard has raised over one hundred the past season. He has also purchased other choice breeds and contemplates making poultry raising a specialty, in which we have no doubt he will be successful. His generous and seasonable present will enable us to observe the Governor's Thanksgiving in a manner appropriate to the occasion.

The hard and "panicky" times about which so much is said have really had but little effect upon the trade of Boston, and we who go there thinking to get great bargains in anything we want, will find himself mistaken. Some retail dealers, for the purpose of getting rid of old goods, have made a great display in advertising in the use of the words, "bankrupt stock," "hard times," "marked down," &c., but domestic articles for family use are but a trifle lower than they were three months ago. The retail stores are crowded with goods, and money seems to be plenty. The truth is, the hard times have been much more talked about than realized, and had it not been for the collapse in stocks, business would not be as brisk as usual at this season of the year. There is work enough to be done, food enough to supply all reasonable wants, and money enough to buy business articles. All we lack is a little more confidence which is rapidly being restored.

It seems that the students of Classic Bowdoin don't like to play soldier. At a recent meeting of the Trustees, a petition which had been very generally signed, was presented, praying for the abolition of the Military Department. The proximate cause of this movement was the expulsion of a student for refusing to drill, though it is understood that a large number of students have been disgusted with it from its very inception. We have never had any faith in this innovation, and in our opinion the students are only showing their good sense in remonstrating against its continuance. The gymnasium furnishes all the means necessary for the development of muscle and there seems to be no incompatibility between the study of military tactics and the pursuit of classical lore.

Mr. Whitaker, managing editor of the New York Tribune, has gained a strong point against the Brooklyn ring who have had him indicted for libel. His prosecutors expected to have him tried by a King's county court, but through the exertion of his counsel a change of venue has been granted and now the case must come before the county court of New York. This will afford Mr. Reid an opportunity of being tried among his friends. The fate of the old Tammany ring should be kept in mind by the Maine swindlers, and the fact should not be lost sight of that an honest press will win in the end of the day.

We had supposed that these works were located here in consequence of the sand which abounds along the entire Cape, but it seems that none of this sand is used in the manufacture of glass. They were originally located here on account of the abundant supply of sand which was found in Sandwich and the adjacent islands. These works were established half a century ago. The process of melting the substances which enter into the composition of glass, required the consumption of great quantities of wood and hence the location of the works was determined by the abundance of fuel was plenty. The supply of wood in this vicinity has long since been exhausted and coal substituted in its place. The works are now owned by many parties and are in a state of decay.

There are but few places where one can get a better view of the rocky coast of Cape Cod than along the windward shores of Cape Cod, New York, Philadelphia and Havana. Sandwich is a fine old town pleasantly situated, and excepting our disappointment in not being able to see the Cape, we were well satisfied with our visit to this place.

An EXCELLENT SELECTION. Captain George H. Preble, United States Navy, from Portland, has been selected by the department to write a history of the navy yards at Kittery and Cape Elizabeth, and to report on the condition of the present time. The volumes will be of great general as well as local interest. Capt.

